

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

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1. (amended) A method of improving expression levels of one or more proteins in a transgenic plant comprising inserting into the genome of said plant a DNA sequence comprising a promoter region operably linked to two or more protein encoding regions and a 3'-terminator region wherein said protein encoding regions are separated from each other by a DNA sequence coding for a linker propeptide, wherein said linker propeptide is isolatable from a plant antimicrobial protein derived from the genus *Impatiens*, and wherein said linker propeptide provides a cleavage site whereby the expressed polyprotein is post-translationally processed into the component protein molecules, with the proviso that at least two of said protein encoding regions encode different proteins.

- A₃
3. (AMENDED) A method for the expression of multiple proteins in a transgenic plant comprising inserting into the genome of said plant a DNA sequence comprising a promoter region operably linked to a signal sequence said signal sequence being operably linked to two or more protein encoding regions and a 3'-terminator region wherein said protein encoding regions are separated from each other by a DNA sequence coding for a linker propeptide wherein said linker propeptide is isolatable from a plant antimicrobial protein derived from the genus *Impatiens* or a fragment thereof, and wherein said linker propeptide provides a cleavage site whereby the expressed polyprotein is post-translationally processed into the component protein molecules, with the proviso that at least two of said protein encoding regions encode different proteins.

- A₄
18. (amended) A method according to claim 1 wherein the linker propeptide has a protease processing site engineered at either or both ends thereof.

20. (amended) A method according to claim 2 wherein the signal sequence is derived from a plant defensin gene.
21. (amended) A method according to claim 1 wherein one or more of the multiple proteins is a defense protein.